

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 00801 180904Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----180917Z 076392 /15

R 180805Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8782

S E C R E T JAKARTA 0801

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ID
SUBJECT: INDONESIA AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

REF: STATE 10105

1. APPRECIATE ACCOUNT OF CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL MURDANI.
WITHOUT REFERENCE MURDANI'S VISIT I INTEND USE SUBSTANCE OF
WHAT WAS SAID TO MURDANI (STATE 8515 PARA 4) IN CONVERSATION
I HOPE TO HAVE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK THIS WEEK.

2. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 3 OF STATE 10105, THERE IS NO DOUBT
THAT GENERAL MURTOPO, REINFORCED BY GOVERNMENT-FINANCED CSIS,
RUSHES TO SEIZE INITIATIVE IN EVERY SIGNIFICANT MATTER IN
WHICH HE BELIEVES PRESIDENT WILL BE INTERESTED OR INVOLVED.
HE SEEMS EAGER TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS THE AMERICAN EXPERT.
HE HAS THUS BEEN ACTIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, RELATIONS
WITH U.S. CONGRESS, TIMOR, NEWSWEEK, AND, MOST RECENTLY,
RELATIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT
HIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO ADVANCE HIS OWN POSITION IN
POLITICAL SCENE BOTH DURING PRESENT ELECTORAL PERIOD AND
BEYOND. THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT HIS ACTIVITIES BRED
OPPOSITION TO HIM AMONG TECHNOCRATS AND SOME SEGMENTS
MILITARY.

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3. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE COULD AVOID CLOSE IDENTIFICATION
WITH OR OBVIOUS SUPPORT OF MURTOPO INITIATIVES. WE FACE
FACT, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN
IMPRESSED WITH WHAT MURTOPO AND CSIS HAVE DONE FOR INDONESIA
ABROAD AND WE CANNOT BE COOL TO MURTOPO INITIATIVES WITHOUT
RISK OF OFFENDING SUHARTO.

4. THIS SITUATION IS ONE REASON WHY I URGE THAT, IF AT ALL
POSSIBLE, NEW ADMINISTRATION MAKE KNOWN KEY DECISIONS ON
RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA THROUGH NORMAL OFFICIAL CHANNELS.
IN LONG RUN, THE FEWER SUCCESSES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP FOR
WHICH MURTOPO CAN CLAIM EXCLUSIVE CREDIT, THE BETTER WILL
BE OUR RELATIONS WITH ENTIRE GOVERNMENT.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, ID, (MURDANI)
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